



## Partnership Agreements – Poetry Out Loud Component

Rev. 4/10/14

Poetry Out Loud is a national recitation contest for students in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. It is a component of the State Arts Agencies (SAA) Partnership grant with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). State champions progress to the National Poetry Out Loud Finals in Washington, DC.

Generally, SAAs must match their Partnership one to one with other non-federal funds. While the overall Partnership grant is matched one to one, each individual component, such as Arts Education, Arts in Underserved Communities, Folk Arts Partnership, and Poetry Out Loud do not necessarily need to be.

For additional information see the "Poetry Out Loud Organizer's Guide," at the state partners' section of [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org). For a complete version of the guide or password information for the state partners section of the website, please contact the program manger listed on the last page.

### Basics:

Poetry Out Loud starts in the classroom, with participating teachers using the Poetry Out Loud teacher toolkit to teach poetry recitation and run classroom competitions. Classroom winners advance to a school-wide competition, then to a regional and/or state competition, and ultimately to the National Finals.

SAAs recruit schools to implement the Poetry Out Loud curriculum in the classroom. Schools hold classroom-level and then school-level poetry recitation contests and identify a school champion. Activities should be supported by a comprehensive program planned by the SAA and any contracted partners.

### Eligibility:

Poetry Out Loud is for students (grades 9-12) at both public and private schools. Eighth graders enrolled in a participating 9th-through 12th-grade class are eligible to compete, at the discretion of state Poetry Out Loud coordinators. Homeschooled students are eligible to compete if the state coordinator finds an equitable and fair way to include them.

No student may be excluded from participation in this program on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, or national origin.

Schools may determine eligibility for classroom- and school-level Poetry Out Loud programs pursuant to local and state law. Under federal law, participation in state competitions and the National Finals is restricted to U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Foreign exchange students and other visitors are not eligible to compete for titles or official prizes at the state and national level, unless they are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. A National Champion is not eligible to compete in future years.

### Awards:

Awards are made in the form of lump sum cash payments, reportable to the IRS. Tax liabilities are the sole responsibility of the winners and their families.

#### 1. State awards:

Each state champion will receive \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip (with an adult chaperone) to Washington, DC, to compete at the National Finals. The state champion's school will receive a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. One runner-up in each state will receive \$100; his or her school will receive \$200 for the purchase of poetry books.

## 2. National awards:

A total of \$50,000 in awards and school stipends will be given at the Poetry Out Loud National Finals, with a \$20,000 award for the National Champion. The second-place winner will receive a \$10,000 award; the third-place winner will receive \$5,000; and the fourth- to ninth-place finalists will each receive \$1,000. Their schools will receive \$500 for the purchase of poetry books. There will be one honorable mention award in each semifinal competition. That student will not advance to the finals, but will receive a \$1,000 cash award and \$500 school stipend.

All awards are paid directly by the Poetry Foundation. Poetry Out Loud funding as part of the NEA State Partnership Agreement Grant may not be used to supplement the awards. Many states have successfully expanded the awards by soliciting private donations or prizes.

### TIMELINE:

For specific dates contact the Poetry Out Loud Program Manager listed on the last page.

Month	SAA Deadlines	Details
October	Application deadline for SAA Partnership agreements.	<a href="http://arts.gov/grants-organizations/partnership-agreements">http://arts.gov/grants-organizations/partnership-agreements</a>
December	<b>First Friday</b> - notify NEA of State's finals date	Send the date of your state finals to <a href="mailto:poetryoutloud@arts.gov">poetryoutloud@arts.gov</a> .
January	<b>Last Friday</b> - school lists due to NEA	Send the list of schools participating in POL in your state to <a href="mailto:poetryoutloud@arts.gov">poetryoutloud@arts.gov</a> .  Column headings must be as follows: school name, school street address, city, state, zip, lead contact first name, lead contact last name, phone number, e-mail, number of participating students, and number of participating teachers. NEA staff will provide an Excel template for completing this task. See the "Partnership Agreements Reporting Requirements."
March	<b>Second Sunday</b> - deadline for <b>State Finals</b> . State contests must take place by this day. <b>Third Thursday</b> - deadline for National Finals student registration, including poem selections and award paperwork.	<b>If your state Poetry Out Loud finals take place after the second Friday in March, you risk</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>not having your state's champion listed in the National Finals program or</b></li><li>• <b>printed on award certificates and plaques</b></li></ul>
April	<b>National Finals</b> in Washington, DC .	Lisner Auditorium on the George Washington University Campus
June	<b>Last Friday</b> - Poetry Out Loud Final Descriptive Report due.	The Poetry Out Loud Final Descriptive Report is available at <a href="http://arts.gov/grants/manage-your-award/partnership-agreements-state-arts-agencies-regional-arts-organizations">http://arts.gov/grants/manage-your-award/partnership-agreements-state-arts-agencies-regional-arts-organizations</a> .  Send the Report to <a href="mailto:poetryoutloud@arts.gov">poetryoutloud@arts.gov</a> .

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

### **1. When will we get the funds?**

Poetry Out Loud funds are part of your NEA State Partnership Agreement Grant and may be requested as soon as you start incurring cost for the program during the approved period of support of the Partnership grant.

### **2. Must the grant funds be matched?**

The Partnership Agreement grant requires a one to one match. As noted earlier, while the overall Partnership grant is match one to one, each individual component, such as Poetry Out Loud does not necessarily need to be if the match is met under another component.

### **3. Can we use third-party in-kind contributions as match?**

Yes. Properly documented in-kind contributions from a third-party may be used to match federal funds. Also, curriculum materials donated by the Poetry Foundation and teacher time at participating schools may be used to meet the match requirement. An in-kind contribution template is available on the NEA's website. Include direct link?

### **4. How may the funds be spent?**

Grant money may be used for administrative expenses of the state Poetry Out Loud program, including staffing. It may be used to send writers or teaching artists to give workshops in schools. It can be sub-granted or subcontracted to a local partner—as long as the program is implemented and the state finals are held in cooperation with the state arts agency. It can be used for travel expenses to bring school-level champions to the state finals. Grant funds may also be used to pay travel costs for a SAA representative to attend the National Finals. Typically, significant costs include guest artists, transportation, and the state finals event.

Grant funds **may not** be used for fundraising, receptions, parties, or additional prizes.

### **5. If we cannot pay for receptions, how do we feed students who participate in our state final event or teachers during workshops?**

Students traveling to a state final competition may be offered a per diem. Alternately, grant funds may support working lunches. If you have day-long events for students or teachers you may serve lunch or support their meals during these Poetry Out Loud-related activities.

### **6. May we use funds for judge stipends at the state finals?**

Yes, SAAs may use grant funds for stipends and/or travel expenses for judges. However, many judges are pleased to donate their time in support of the program. If this is the case, you may claim their time as an in-kind contribution.

### **7. Must my program be statewide?**

No, a statewide program is not a requirement.

### **8. Can state arts agencies use a partner to administer the program?**

Absolutely. SAAs may run Poetry Out Loud in-house, or they may contract or sub-grant out some or all of the program. Many of the states plan to work with partners in administering Poetry Out Loud. We do ask, however, that the SAAs stay closely involved in the program. SAAs should retain ultimate oversight and ownership of the project, as partners with the Arts Endowment. The NEA believes that the SAAs will

continue to benefit from high visibility in this program and have many resources that are necessary for the program to succeed.

**9. Is there room for other elements in Poetry Out Loud?**

Poetry Out Loud should align with your SAA's educational priorities. To serve that need, we encourage SAAs to think creatively about artist residencies, teacher in-services, creative writing workshops, and other educational opportunities that will enhance a student's appreciation for poetry. Of course, there is no requirement that SAAs incorporate these additional components into their programs.

**POETRY OUT LOUD CONTACTS:**

<b>Poetry Out Loud Program Manager</b>	<b>State Partnership Agreements</b>
For general information about Poetry Out Loud, including how to run a state program	For information on Poetry Out Loud funding for your State or Jurisdictional Arts Agency and ways in which Poetry Out Loud is incorporated into your partnership agreement
<b>Eleanor Billington</b> Program Manager <a href="mailto:billington@arts.gov">billington@arts.gov</a> Phone: (202) 682-5001 Fax: (202) 682-5002	<b>Andi Mathis</b> Specialist, State and Regional Partnerships <a href="mailto:mathisa@arts.gov">mathisa@arts.gov</a> Phone: (202) 682-5430 Fax: (202) 682-5613